

362

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 21 -- "There is a national commitment to improve opportunities for America's handicapped," U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said today. "What we need now is a commitment of funds, ideas and aid."

Dole spoke here before the National Association of Hearing and Speech Agencies (NAHSA).

In reviewing needs of the handicapped, Dole said that while Congress bears prime responsibility for providing funds, the success of such programs depends on the support and assistance given by other agencies.

"Private, specialized organizations like NAHSA and the two Presidential Task Forces on the physically and mentally handicapped are valuable sources of such assistance," Dole said.

The Kansas Senator has a special interest in the task forces. In his first major speech on the Senate floor last year, he suggested that such a task force be appointed to review programs and assistance available to the handicapped.

"By working together," Dole said, "Congress, the task forces and private organizations can move rapidly toward meeting the needs of America's 42 million handicapped."